

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON TERRORISM

REF: USNATO 5647

1. APPRECIATE THAT PERMREPS MEETING THIS WEEK, BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS, AND OTHER FACTORS WILL INFLUENCE COURSE WHICH WILL FOLLOW. NEVERTHELESS, LOOKING AHEAD TO PROPOSED BRIEFING OF PREMREPS OCTOBER 23, HOFFACKER SUBMITS FOLLOWING DRAFT REMARKS WHICH HE MIGHT MAKE AT THAT TIME. IF DESIRED, HE MIGHT GIVE, IN ADDITION, PRELIMINARY, OUTLINE ESTIMATE OF RED ARMY THREAT AS SEEN FROM WASHINGTON AS FURTHER JUSTIFICATION FOR STUDY. SUCH ESTIMATE IS NOT RPT NOT INTENDED TO BE DETAILED OR DEFINITIVE SINCE SUCH US INPUT WOULD BE RETAINED FOR STUDY ITSELF. MISSION'S COMMENT REQUESTED.

2. THE RECENT INCIDENT AT THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN THE HAGUE, IS DRAMATIC EVIDENCE OF THE CONTEMPORARY FACT OF LIFE THAT
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INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM HAS REACHED THE POINT WHERE INNO-

CENT PEOPLE FAR REMOVED FROM THE ORIGIN OF POLITICAL OR IDEOLOGICAL FRUSTRATION CAN BE VICTIMIZED. THE PERPETRATORS OF THIS INCIDENT INVOLVING THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR AND OTHERS HAVE A SHORT AND VIOLENT HISTORY OF ATROCITIES AND THREATS WHICH TERRORIZED JAPAN FOR SOME YEARS. THESE SAME INTERNATIONAL CRIMINALS NOW

ARE AT LARGE IN EUROPE, IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND IN FACT IN VIRTUALLY THE WHOLE WORLD. IT IS LOGICAL THEREFORE THAT NATO SHOULD CONCERN ITSELF WITH THE JAPANESE RED ARMY TERRORISTS SINCE THEY ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO DISTURB THE TRANQUILLITY OF EUROPE AS THEY THREATEN TO STRIKE AT JAPANESE AND OTHER TARGETS WITHIN NATO COUNTRIES. MOREOVER, COLLABORATION OF RED ARMY ELEMENTS WITH OTHER TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS HAS SIGNIFICANTLY BROADENED THEIR CAPABILITY IN EUROPE AND ON THE BROADER SCENE. IT IS IMPROBABLE THAT NATO MEMBERS CAN DO MUCH AT THIS STAGE TO COUNTER RED ARMY TERRORISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WHICH SEEMS TO BE A PRIMARY FOCUS OF RED ARMY ACTIVITY. BUT THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE AMPLE ROOM FOR FULLER COLLABORATION AMONG NATO MEMBERS IN MINIMIZING THE RED ARMY THREAT IN EUROPE AND TOWARD NATO INTERESTS OUTSIDE EUROPE.

3. THE US THEREFORE TABLED A MODEST PROPOSAL IN RESPONSE TO CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY THE PERMREPS FOLLOWING THE HAGUE INCIDENT. THIS PROPOSAL IS NOT INTENDED TO DISTURB THE ONGOING BILATERAL LIAISON WHICH CONCERNS ITSELF WITH SUCH MATTERS AND WHICH INVOLVES OFTEN SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE. RATHER, IT IS HOPED THAT THE PROPOSED AD HOC GROUP MIGHT EXAMINE THE RED ARMY AND ITS CAPABILITIES AS THEY MAY AFFECT NATO INTERESTS AND TO PROPOSE APPROPRIATE JOINT COUNTER-MEASURES. SUCH COLLECTIVE ACTION WOULD THEREFORE SUPPLEMENT CONTINUING BILATERAL COOPERATION.

4. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THERE IS A BROAD COINCIDENCE OF INTERESTS BETWEEN THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE DESIRABILITY OF COUNTERING RED ARMY TERRORISTS AND THEIR ASSOCIATES. JAPANESE COOPERATION IS THEREFORE ESSENTIAL AND SEEMS LIKELY IF THE AD HOC GROUP IS FORMED. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS EXPECTED
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THAT THE AD HOC GROUP WOULD ESTABLISH EARLY LIAISON WITH THE JAPANESE AUTHORITIES, PROBABLY THROUGH BILATERAL CHANNELS BECAUSE OF THE KNOWN SENSITIVITY IN SOME JAPANESE CIRCLES TOWARD ASSOCIATION WITH NATO.

5. ON THE BASIS OF PRESENT INTELLIGENCE, THE NUMBER OF VIRULENCE OF THEIR ACTION IN THE INCIDENTS WHICH HAVE AFFECTED SOME ALLIES - LIKE THE LOD AIRPORT MASSACRE, THE

JAL HIJACKING OF LAST SUMMER, THE BOMBING OF THE SHELL REFINERY IN SINGAPORE, AND THE TERROR IN THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN THE HAGUE - ATTESTS TO A VITALITY AND A SAVAGERY WHICH SHOULD RIGHTLY CONCERN NATO. MOREOVER, PROBABLE RED ARMY

BASES OF OPERATION AND AFFILIATION WITHIN ALLIANCE BOUNDARIES WOULD SEEM TO REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. BY WORKING TOGETHER IN THIS ENDEAVOR, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY THE DETERRENT AGAINST THIS MENACE AND HOPEFULLY WILL BE IN AN IMPROVED POSITION TO FRUSTRATE OTHER RED ARMY INITIATIVES WHICH COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE FABRIC OF NATO AND INTERNATIONAL ORDER.

6. THE US HAS ALREADY INCREASED ITS VIGILANCE IN THE FACE OF THE HAGUE INCIDENT AND WOULD BE PLEASED TO DISCUSS THIS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COUNTER-MEASURES WHICH MIGHT BE REFINED IN THE STUDY PROPOSED FOR THE AD HOC GROUP.

7. ON THE BASIS OF EXPERIENCE GAINED THROUGH SUCH COLLECTIVE ACTION, THE ALLIANCE MAY WISH TO MOVE ON TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST THREATS TO NATO INTERESTS. BUT FOR THE MOMENT, IT IS PROPOSED ONLY THAT WE CONCENTRATE ON THE RED ARMY AND ON THE HARROWING EXPERIENCES WHICH ALLIES MAY HAVE HAD WITH THIS PARTICULAR GROUP OF TERRORISTS.

8. NATURALLY SUCH A STUDY SHOULD BE CONDUCTED IN SECRECY. IT WOULD SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE TO ADVERTISE NATO CONCERN IN THIS REGARD. SHOULD QUESTIONS BE ASKED, SPOKESMEN COULD RESTRICT THEMSELVES TO SAYING THAT, OF COURSE, THE ALLIES ARE CONCERNED WITH RECENT EVENTS IN THE HAGUE AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, BUT THAT NATO IS NOT SEIZED OF THE MATTER. INGERSOLL
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